

REMARKS

Claims 26, 36, 37 and 48 were presented for examination. All claims were rejected under §112, §102 (Muller '118), and §103 (Muller '118).

New claims 51 and 52 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. The §112 rejection basis has been avoided in the new claims. Further, the new claims claim features not disclosed or taught in Muller. Muller does not teach or disclose "separate first, second, and third spaced-apart workpiece supports."

Muller does not disclose the use of a "metal cutter." Muller does not teach or disclose that the "first and third workpiece supports are extensible in substantially a common horizontal plane" while "said second support is movable in a direction substantially perpendicular to said common horizontal plane."

The new claims further would not be obvious under §103 in light of the prior art as discussed in the declaration of Mr. Eddy which is incorporated herein. Mr. Eddy presents specific evidence and explanation for why the use of power driven feed rollers to push and pull an elongated metallic workpiece is unacceptable in the art.

The Examiner is asked to reconsider the new claims in light of the declaration of Mr. Eddy and issue a notice of allowance. Corrected formal drawings will be submitted upon notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 9-23-02

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